Export of Good Quality Wheat

17. SHRI ANANTRAY DEVSHANKER DAVE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware that the fair price shops are not picking up wheat due to increase in price and inferior quality;

(b) whether in view of the above, Government have started the export of wheat of good quality; and

(c) the rate at which the same is being exported?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) No, Sir. As against the offtake of 32.83 lakh MTs of wheat during the year 2000-2001 (upto January, 2001), a quantity of 43.09 lakh MTs has been lifted from the Central Pool during the corresponding period in 2001-2002.

(b) and (c) In view of (a) above, questions (b) and (c) do not arise.

Unsold stock of Rubber

18. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the price of rubber is falling continuously for the last three years;

(b) whether it is also a faet that there are huge stocks of rubber lying unsold as a result of the slump in the market; and

(c) if so, the effect of the decision of Government to reduce further the import duty on rubber to 25 per cent on the rubber farmers of our country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) During the last 3 years, the prices of rubber in the domestic maket witnessed a downward trend in tandem with the international prices. The domestic average yearly prices of Natural Rubber during